HE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER

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JAMESTOWN AND THE AMERICAN HERITAGE

The Three Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, being celebrated this year, represents some years of careful planning and the skillful execution of a program in which a legion of interested people are working, and the expenditure of considerable funds. And all this has for its purpose the emphasizing in this day of confusion and uncertainty the truth that the spirit of man has a vitality that neither the willfulness of evil men, nor the hazards of stormy seas, the stubbornness of new and untamed lands, and the hamperings of disease, could destroy. For there were great deeds wrought at Jamestown three centuries ago and what came out of that travail is part and parcel of the American heritage.

We are prone to think of our New England forefathers as the engineers of the new American age, and such in part they were, but we have to recall that they had the advantage of knowing the thirteen years' experience of this first permanent English settlement in the new land that had weathered through to victory, denied to other earlier planted English colonies which had vanished quite away. The Pilgrims before sailing knew that one settlement had been made on the eastern seaboard, and that men had found it possible to maintain their footing in spite of the long sea journey, lack of supplies, lack of training in building, farming, maintenance of health and defense from hostile Indians.

The Jamestown settlers were different in background and ideals and they sought at first to set up a far different form of social, political and economic life than did the Pilgrims and Puritans of New England. But they were at heart of the same breed, had enjoyed the beginnings of English freedom, accepted the ministration of the Church and responded to the challenge of a free life where the souls of men, however much they had been bruised, could still have aspirations. The problems of state relationship, church connection and social and financial conditions, varied from those of New England, but the end product as measured in human lives in Virginia and New England had a very great deal in common, as also in the later settlements, in Pennsylvania, New York and in other colonies.

But let it ever be remembered that at that high period in the annals of mankind when the Continental Congress finally decided that the American Colonies should be free that it was Richard Henry Lee of Virginia who arose on the 7th day of June, 1776, and moved " that these United Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown and that all connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved." And that the motion so made was seconded by John Adams of Massachusetts! And, further, that Thomas Jefferson of Virginia was chosen to write the document of immortal fame, The Declaration of Independence.

We take great joy in the Mayflower Compact of 1620, of the Fundamental

Continued from page 1.

Orders of Connecticut, the pioneering of Bradford, Hooker, Wise, and of the battles fought and won. But the American heritage includes the first representative legislature constituted in America which met in the Church at Jamestown, June 30, 1619, where it proceeded "to draft laws for the government of the community." Let us also remember that the Bill of Rights, drafted by Col. George Mason of Virginia, became a model for other state constitutions and finally for the Constitution of the United States. During the first two hundred years, from Jamestown in 1607 to Madison's administration, the leaders of Virginia and of New England lived and worked in close harmony. When Washington was made Commander-in-Chief he went to Boston to assume his command, and when he was chosen President, Adams of New England was made Vice President.

Through all these years of the formation of American social and political idealism these two movements — little Jamestown in Virginia and little Plymouth and Boston Bay in New England — carried together the torch of freedom and fashioned the foundations of American idealism. F. L. F.

Elon College Historical Room

At the Annual Meeting Dr. James Lightbourne reported the formation of an historical society by the churches of the Southern Convention and the setting aside of a special room by Elon College Library for historical material under the supervision of Dr. F. C. Lester. The room will be officially opened Sunday, May 12th.

The Society voted: That this Society recognize the Historical Room at Elon College and send our greetings to the Southern Convention and Elon College; these greetings to be conveyed by Mr. Lightbourne who indicated his intention to attend this event.

The Christian Churches of Virginia and the Carolinas organized in Revolutionary War times share richly in the Southern heritage now being celebrated at Jamestown.

Summary of Financial Report 1956

Receipts:		
National Agencies		
A. B. C. F. M.	$ 500.00	
G. C.	2,000.00	
B. H. M.	750.00	
Conferences	1,260.00	
Seminaries	35.00	
Churches	1,880.79	
Individuals	1,099.00	
Miscellaneous	138.00	
Total		$7,662.79
Expenses:		
Salaries	$3,605.68	
Internal Revenue	465.60	
Office expense	2,001.59	
Print. & Misc.	989.09	
Total		7,061.96
Balance for year		$ 600.83

The books were audited by Arthur R. Paine, C. P. A. JAMES H. LIGHTBOURNE, Treasurer.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

From the President's Report

Dr. Bradford in opening the business session of the Annual Meeting emphasized the following matters in his report:

1. "Our first thought is one of regret for the absence of Fred Fagley . . . our prayerful hope is that he will soon be with us again, his health restored and strength renewed. . . .

2. "To the national and state agencies of our denomination and the interested churches and individuals we are heartily grateful for providing funds necessary for our work. Counting on their continued support and trusting that new friends will be found, we face the future with confidence, eager to undertake new tasks. . . .

3. "Local churches are our central concern; their history and historians, their anniversaries. . . . Our concern, also, is with our churches in fellowship with one another as they move forward into the new and challenging venture of the Union with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. . . ."

From the Secretary's Report

The Society has made good progress during the past year. We have added 26 new churches as members, making our total 249; new individuals 58, total 229. Our national and state agencies have remained constant in their interest and support.

The office work has increased with the added number of local church historians, an increase of 458 for the year to a total of 727. These church officials are showing an increasing interest in their work and the total contribution in service will show in time in an increased loyalty to our fellowship and its century-old agencies and objectives.

Our correspondence with churches from all parts of the country as they plan their anniversaries affords many opportunities for real helpfulness and our correspondence with students and church workers seeking information has opened many inviting doors.

F. L. F.

Professor Bainton's Address

A very pleasing feature of the Annual Meeting of the Society, held at the Lawn Club, New Haven, March 14th, was the luncheon given in honor of Professor Roland H. Bainton in recognition of his national and international influence in the field of church history. Seventy-eight members and friends were present. The President spoke briefly as to the purpose of the luncheon and introduced Professor Kenneth Scott Latourette who spoke on the topic: *Dr. Bainton, The Historian.* Dr. Bainton gave the historical address on the topic: *Humor, Pathos and Sublimity in Puritan Religion,* in his usual brilliant and highly entertaining style.

amestown 1607-1957

The Jamestown Festival, which began April t and will continue until November 30, in e words of the *N. Y. Herald Tribune*, " com- emorates the beginnings of the Protestant re- gion and free representative government in merica." The little river harbor has replicas the three ships in which the early settlers me to America; the village also has restora- ons of the first homes and other community uildings. The town was for 91 years the Capital Virginia.

Here was celebrated the first recorded Prot- tant communion service in America in 1607, d the first elected legislative assembly was ld here in 1619. Within an eleven mile dius are other historical sites — Williamsburg, ter the Capital of Virginia, where a $25,000,- 00 restoration has been in process for some ars financed by the Rockefellers, and York- wn where was sealed the victory for Ameri- n Independence. These two communities are ited with Jamestown in the Festival.

Among the features of this summer-long ob- rvance is a series of musical events which in- ides the rendering of a commemorative opera d band and choral events by American and reign artists. These special events are being ld in the Auditorium of William and Mary ollege (organized 1693) of Williamsburg. utstanding foreign leaders are coming to Amer- a and many Americans are participating.

Two commissions, one State and the other ederal, are in charge of the festivities. Presi- nt Eisenhower will visit the celebration May th. More than 2,500,000 visitors are ex- cted and no pains are being spared to have erything done for the guests of this celebra- on which has great significance for all Ameri- ns and meaning for all the world. The Fed- al government is contributing to the Festival ore than $10,000,000 and the State almost much, and other agencies and individuals.

Our front page piece attempts to pay honor the Southern leaders in the formation of merican free government.

r. Beach's Address

By request of the Committee on Program r. David N. Beach addressed the Society at e Annual Meeting on the topic: *Conciliar ongregationalism in the United States.* This dress will be published in the near future by e Board of Deacons of Center Church in New aven. The study concerns the way the early ongregational churches developed the use of ouncils in furthering the affairs and welfare the individual churches and the values in is well-tried method of cooperative relation- ip in Congregationalism. Copies may be cured from the office of the Society or from nter Church, 311 Temple St., New Haven , Conn.

The Mayflower II

Our papers and magazines have been giving much space to the voyage to be made this spring of the newly constructed *Mayflower*, that is on the pattern of the original, by a group of business men and other interested Britishers in England. It is planned to sail along the same route to Plymouth Bay, Mass., and there be the center of municipal and other celebrations and then sail on to New York where preparations are being made for an extended visit. The ship is bringing a cargo of samples of British-made goods and many of the passengers will be employees of these commercial agencies. Some will be descendants of *Mayflower I.*

The Plimoth Plantation, Inc., a national educational organization, with a membership of over 700 persons, is planning a long-range program " to foster a public understanding of the Pilgrims of Plymouth," and is in general charge of the development at Plymouth, the welcoming of the *Mayflower II* and the building of a memorial village at a cost of over $1,000,000.

The Massachusetts Conference and the churches of the eastern part of the State are actively assisting the program and and will give all support possible that this project may emphasize the fact that the Pilgrims came to America for religious and idealistic purposes.

After the trip to New York the ship will return to Plymouth and there be given permanently to that community as an object of high historic significance. The Summer issue of this News Letter will feature the plan and program of this very interesting project.

An Interesting Proposal

Dr. Rockwell Harmon Potter has made the suggestion which we greatly appreciate, that the interesting story of the work of the Commission of Nineteen of the Council of 1913, recently written by Dr. Raymond Calkins, a member of the Commission, be reprinted. This Commission's Report was adopted by the Kansas City Council for the reorganization of Congregationalism. This report has been accepted by our churches for more than forty years as a foundation on which our churches were established as a national fellowship. The Statement of Faith there accepted, known as the National Council Statement or the Kansas City Statement, which is included in our hymn books and church service materials, was but one of the sections of this great document. Dr. Raymond Calkins has given a fascinating recital of one of the great periods of our history.

Dr. Potter has sent a check for $25.00 toward the cost of publishing the document and he invites others to join him in supplying the Society with sufficient funds for this purpose. The cost is estimated at $350.00. Persons interested kindly send a contribution, marked " Calkins Special " to the office of the Society.

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The Budget of the Society

Anticipated Expenses

Rent	$ 51[illegible]
Tel. & Tel.	5[illegible]
Postage and Mailing	45[illegible]
Supplies and Books	15[illegible]
Meetings and Travel	35[illegible]
Printing and Mimeo.	80[illegible]
Secretarial asst.	2,42[illegible]
Secretary	1,60[illegible]
Advertising and Misc.	17[illegible]
S. S. (Society's share)	9[illegible]
Contingencies	500
	$7,100

Sources of Expected Income

The General Council	$2,000
The American Board	500
The Board of Home Missions	750
The Conferences	1,350
The Churches	1,750
Individuals	700
Seminaries	50
	$7,100

Membership in the Society

1. Contributing National and State agencies are voting members of the Society and name representatives to the Board of Governors.
2. Churches contributing $10.00 or more per year become full voting members and those contributing less become associate members of the Society.
3. Individuals contributing $5.00 or more per year become sustaining (voting) members and those contributing less become associates of the Society.

All contributors receive the *News Letter* and other publications and reports of the Society.

NOTE: Contributions approved for Income Tax Credit by U. S. Income Tax Bureau

The Anniversary of Your Church

With rightful pride a church prepares carefully for its anniversary. It was founded with faith, hope, courage and commitment. There were also fears and the facing of the unknown.

The forming of your church was by a small company and their decision to act was structured upon their confidence in God and in the hope that those who were to come after them would profit by their act and further commit themselves.

Shall we not pray that the faith of the fathers and their hopes and courage be ours too? Shall we not covenant anew to build on foundations they laid to make the church Christ's true response to the world's great need?

FRED HOSKINS, *Minister of The General Council*

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ORGANIZED OCTOBER 15, 1952
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To the Friends of the
Congregational Christian Historical Society

September, 1957

Greetings!

Since the regular summer News Letter and the special Forefathers' Day number usually come out in close succession, we are issuing the Summer Number in this form. We wish to present to you three important matters:

1. The Society has had an unusually interesting year, judging by the cordial letters we have had from all parts of the country. More churches are having significant anniversary celebrations, with good follow-up results, relating to the importance of the life and work of the local church in its own community. One result is a greater interest in the local church's collecting and preserving its own historical records. This gives the church an added sense of its permanent value, not only in its own field but also in the life of the fellowship.

Our growing list of local church historians is encouraging, as is also the increase of general interest on the part of church officials, students of all grades, and national agencies, religious and secular.

2. The action of our General Council in uniting with the Evangelical and Reformed Church is a significant development of the Ecumenical movement. Many adjustments are in process, but the main matter of interest is the drafting of a working constitution which will provide a form of organization and a program of work for the united fellowship. In time this Society will study its new way. The E and R Historical Society is developing an enlarged program, and that fellowship has just made a significant new contribution of $5,000 to its Society. We have many relations with these co-workers, and when the constitution is adopted we hope provision will be made for an expanding cooperative enterprise.

3. The Missions Council has approved of September as the time for the C.C.H.S. to make its annual appeal. Our financial needs are modest: $7,100 per year, which is sufficient for our minimum needs, such as printing, a busy correspondence, an adequate office with research facilities, and the service of two employees. We have always escaped a deficit, but our necessary economy has caused us to miss some alluring opportunities for service. One-half of the amount is supplied by the General Council, the Boards, and the state organizations. The balance is sought from interested individuals and local churches. Subscription blanks are enclosed. Some members generously add a gift to their membership dues.